

REMARKS

Status

In the Office Action mailed on January 28, 2009, claims 1, 6-19 and 23-31 were pending in the application. The present amendment cancels claims 15-18. As such, it is claims 1, 6-14, 19 and 23-31 which are at issue.

The Rejection

In the Office Action mailed on January 28, 2009, claims 14-17 were rejected, claims 18 and 30 were objected to and claims 1, 6-13, 19, 23-29 and 31 were allowed.

Claims 14-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Graf (US 6,030,027). Claim 18 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. And claim 30 was objected to as containing a minor informality, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the informality.

Remarks Directed to the Objection of Claim 30

Claim 30 has been amended such that “extending between” on line 2 has been replaced with “having”. As such, Applicant submits that claim 30 is no longer objectionable.

Remarks Directed to the Rejection of Claims 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claim 14 has been amended to include the elements of claim 18 and the intervening claims of 15-17. As such, Applicant submits that independent claim 14 is no longer anticipated by Graf (US 6,030,027) and respectfully requests that the rejection of this claim be withdrawn and moved towards allowance.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 6-14, 19 and 23-31 are the currently pending claims. Applicant submits that the claims as currently amended are in allowable form. If the Examiner has any suggestions or modifications that would place the claims in still better allowable form, the Examiner is requested to contact the attorney undersigned below.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 07-1180.

Dated: 03/11/2009

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Mark A. Harper, Ph.D./

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